

# SIREN

New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control • November 2005

George E. Pataki  
Governor  
James A. Burns  
State Fire Administrator

## Governor's Remarks Eighth Annual Firefighters Memorial Ceremony

Empire State Plaza, Albany

Tuesday, October 11, 2005 11:00 a.m.

Today, for the eighth time since the establishment of this beautiful and much-deserved memorial, we, the people of New York, turn our thoughts and prayers to our fallen firefighters and the families they left behind.

As Governor of this great state and the son of a volunteer firefighter, I consider this to be not only an important duty, but a great privilege.

The great Winston Churchill once said: "Honor to the brave who fell. Their sacrifice was not in vain."

Those simple, earnest words precisely encapsulate the reason why we are here today.

Today we fulfill our solemn obligation to manifest the honor that is due 10 men whose tragically shortened lives exemplify the truest definition of the term "hero."

Today we gather to convey our respect and reverence for 10 firefighters who perished in the noblest of all pursuits - risking their own lives to save those of others.

Today we pay homage to 10 selfless guardians of life whose legacy of heroism will endure forever, permanently enshrined on these hallowed slabs of stone.

Today we honor their courage and commitment; and express our infinite gratitude.

For we are profoundly grateful that there have been, and continue to be, New Yorkers willing to boldly confront danger in order that others may live.

Individuals who possess and respond to an inherent drive to serve, regardless of the risk;

People who readily place the safety of others before their own;

Volunteers and professionals alike who answer the call; morning, noon and night;

Who regularly brave a crucible of smoke and flames that few would dare endure;

Who sweat under pounds of gear in the searing summer heat, and stand soaking wet for hours in the numbing cold of winter;

Men and women able and willing to accept the ultimate responsibility; and yes, make the ultimate sacrifice.

But as Mr. Churchill said so eloquently, theirs was a

sacrifice that was certainly NOT made in vain.

In fact, quite the opposite is true - while their sacrifice was great, so too were the fruits of that sacrifice.

The lives they saved are their tribute, the countless moments of beauty, love and goodness made possible by their heroic actions are their legacy:

- All of the children able to enjoy the invaluable warmth and comfort of a mother's embrace;
- All of the parents and grandparents able to proudly delight in the birthdays, graduations, home runs, and weddings of their children;
- All of the children whose lives were enriched by the presence of a rescued parent, family member or friend;
- All of the families that remained intact, all of the hearts that remained unbroken.

No, the sacrifice of these fallen heroes was certainly not in vain.

We pray that the families and friends of the men we honor today may find comfort in knowing how much good has been given rise by their selfless service.

We pray that your sorrow may be partially tempered by the pride that you and your fellow New Yorkers have for their exemplary, life-giving deeds --

The pride we substantiate today by forever memorializing their names on this hallowed wall of remembrance and gratitude.

The ten men whose lives we celebrate today join those of 2,283 other firefighters lost in the line of duty throughout our state's history.

Six of these heroic New Yorkers were lost during the previous year, four of them died years ago.

This year we honor the courage and sacrifice of:

- Kevin M. Shea, Elsmere Fire Dept.
- Ernest L. Heatherman, Brisben Fire Dept.
- Brett E. Neff, Harford Fire Company
- Jeffrey W. Howell, Sharon Springs Fire Dept.
- Christian P. Engeldrum, FDNY
- Wilfredo F. Urbina, Baldwin Fire Dept.
- Leroy Schmuck, Old Forge Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Everett D. Holdridge, Ancram Fire Dept.
- Roy W. Dodge, Buffalo Fire Dept.
- Frederick Fink, Eastchester Fire Dept.

All of them represent the pinnacle of public service.

All of them are deserving of our deepest respect, admiration and thanks.

All of them gave their lives in the performance of their sworn duty.

Two of these firefighters, were lost in the performance of a different kind of duty.

In addition to swearing an oath to their respective fire departments, these two great New Yorkers also swore an oath to their state and nation as members of the New York Army National Guard.

For some, the call to duty knows no limits. Both Sergeant Chris Engeldrum and Specialist Will Urbina, both members of New York's renowned Fighting 69th Infantry, were killed on November 29, 2004 when their Humvee rolled over an explosive device in Baghdad.

Three years prior, Chris had rushed to Ground Zero with members of FDNY's Ladder 61 in Co-Op City, the Bronx.

Will had served for six years as a volunteer with the Baldwin Fire Department right next door to his Long Island home.

Both were intensely dedicated and proud firefighters AND soldiers.

It is more than appropriate to forever enshrine their memories on this place of honor - it is more than fitting for their names to be permanently etched in stone with those of so many of their fellow heroes -- fallen firefighters from throughout our history.

Their inclusion can only deepen the significance of this memorial and bring even greater honor to all those remembered here.

I believe that we New Yorkers have a uniquely deep appreciation for our firefighters.

Four years ago, we watched in simultaneous awe and horror as firefighters rushed into those burning towers.

Like the names on this wall, those pictures will be forever etched on our hearts and minds.

In them, we saw vividly the selflessness, raw courage and love it takes to be a firefighter.

Those pictures were cause for many New Yorkers to closely consider what kind of person it takes to do that.

And we found the answer right in our own communities - from the North Country to the Niagara frontier to New York City and everywhere in between.

109,000 men and women across New York State ready 24-7 to answer that call, to stand in harm's way, to stand up and accept that awesome responsibility -- to be a firefighter.

As we honor their fallen comrades, let us recall and be mindful of their dedication, their sacrifice, their courage and their commitment to the people of this great state.

God bless our fallen heroes and their families.

God bless New York's firefighters and THEIR families.

And God bless the great State of New York.

Thank you.

For additional coverage visit: [http://www.ny.gov/governor/press/05/oct11\\_1\\_05.htm](http://www.ny.gov/governor/press/05/oct11_1_05.htm)

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/firewww.html>

## Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation

If you would like to see what your friends to the North are up to, in regard to honoring fallen firefighters, please check out:

<http://www.cfff.ca>

Stay Safe,

Robert Kirkpatrick

Captain, Mississauga Fire Services

Ontario Regional Vice President

Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Fondation canadienne des pompiers morts en service

133 Walnut Court

Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7W2

Phone: 613-569-8297

E-Mail: [cfff@sympatico.ca](mailto:cfff@sympatico.ca)

### Editor's Note:

Captain Kirkpatrick had the opportunity to attend our ceremony on October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Fallen Firefighters Memorial. He was both impressed and moved by the ceremony. He will be taking ideas back to Canada for possible incorporation into their observance.

## Firefighter Fatalities Down

The 2005 national reports for firefighter fatalities this year show the numbers are down. Comparing 2004 to 2005, from Jan 1 – Sept 1, 2004 – there were 81 firefighter deaths and this year- Jan 1 – Sept 1, 2005 – there were 72 firefighter deaths. While we cannot make a direct correlation, given the 2005 figures are still not finalized, it still looks like firefighter deaths may be down in 2005 as compared to 2004. The one significant event last year was the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Firefighter Safety Summit in Tampa - it mattered and was the major kickoff to get all of us to rethink how the job is done. Then this year, the IAFC-led National Firefighter Safety Stand Down in June 2005, carried it on and really brought it down to the "firehouse" level across our Country. Firefighters and fire officers alike bought into the Stand Down.

## NIOSH Releases Firefighter Fatality Reports at

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face200335.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face200502.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face200514.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face200516.html>

## Transport Canada 2004 ERG link correction

A typo "slipped" through in the last issue of SIREN. The link to Transport Canada did not work. On at least some browsers (like Explorer), you couldn't just click on the link because it's missing the W's. The correct link is:

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/canutec/en/guide/ergo/ergo.htm>

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## Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations Program

Approximately 25 percent of firefighter fatalities occur in vehicle crashes responding to, or returning from, emergency incidents. To help counter this statistic, a new web-based educational program geared toward reducing vehicle crashes in volunteer and small combination Emergency Services Sector organizations is now available online.

The Emergency Vehicle Safe Operations course can be accessed at :

<http://www.nvfc.org/evsp/index.html>

Additional information about this program as well as other USFA efforts in emergency vehicle safety may be found on the USFA web site at:

<http://usfa.gov/research/safety/vehicle.shtm>

Emergency Vehicle Safety Chart

Link to PDF at:

<http://www.nvfc.org/evsp/vehicle-safety.html>

Submitted by Chief Ron Dunn, HazMat Bureau

## CDCP on CO Poisoning

Materials that may be helpful to print and distribute to your members and citizens. They include the following attachments:

Fact sheet on CO Poisoning: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/cofacts.asp>

For flyers, doortags and other educational materials:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/co-materials.asp>

Submitted by State Fire Administrator Jim Burns, President, National Association of State Fire Administrators

## Federal Grant Support

For support or questions, please contact FedGrants support at: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov) or call the FedGrants Help Desk at: 1-800-518-4726

This site gives grantors a means to post solicitations for grants and gives applicants a single site for obtaining these solicitations.

<http://www.fedgrants.gov/>

## Homeland Security Grants

U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security grants are available at:

<http://www.domprep.com/index.lasso?pgID=2&chID=20>

## Natural Disasters News Update Every 30 minutes

<http://www.terraily.com/disasterwire.html>

## The Little Company That Could

Part 1 of 3

By Dennis Cauchon, USA TODAY

GULFPORT, Miss. - Melvin Wilson, 46, a marketing manager for Mississippi Power, was reviewing next year's advertising campaign when Hurricane Katrina turned toward Mississippi.

A day later, the marketing man was "director of storm logistics," responsible for feeding and housing 11,000 repairmen from 24 states and Canada. (Photo gallery: Power struggle in Mississippi)

He needed nurses, beds, meals, tetanus shots, laundry service, showers, toilets and much more - and he needed them now. And he needed double the quantities called for in the company's "worst-case scenario." And he needed them in places that had no electricity, no plumbing, no phones, few road signs and sporadic looting.

### About Mississippi Power

Headquarters: Gulfport, Miss.

Employees: 1,250

Customers: 195,000

2004 revenue: \$910 million

2004 net income: \$77 million

Parent company: Southern Co. of Atlanta

Mississippi Power's damage from Hurricane Katrina

Repair costs: \$245 million to \$295 million

Customers without power: 100%

Transmission and distribution facilities lost: 65%

Generating capacity available: 3%

Power lines: 1,000 miles down

Poles: 8,900 down

Transmission towers: 300 damaged

Corporate headquarters: Unusable for months

Employees: All survived. More than half suffered substantial damage to their homes; 75 lost homes completely.

Sources: Mississippi Power, Southern Co.

The fact that Wilson didn't have a working phone was his tough luck: If he failed, men would go hungry, hospitals would stay dark and the suffering of his community would endure. "My day job did not prepare me for this," says Wilson, his voice choked with emotion, recalling the burden of having 11,000 mouths to feed.

Let it be told: Wilson got the job done. So did his colleagues. And how they restored power in just 12 days is one of the great modern crisis-management stories.

While the government struggled to organize a bus convoy in New Orleans, Mississippi Power successfully executed a swift, ambitious disaster plan. The company provided its own security, communications, fuel, food and sanitation. The manpower deployed was equal in size to an Army division.

The story of this relatively small 1,250-employee corporate subsidiary reveals how much can be done quickly when it's managed right. "I could not be prouder of our response," says David Ratcliffe, chief executive of Southern Co. (SO), the Atlanta-based utility that owns Mississippi Power.

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Operating in the harshest of circumstances - its corporate headquarters destroyed, its disaster response center flooded, all 195,000 customers without power - Mississippi Power restored power to all customers who could safely take electricity by the symbolic day of Sept. 11. The 12-day repair effort was completed far ahead of the original four-week schedule.

Mississippi Power benefited from a strategy refined by years of hurricane experience. Southern Co.'s five electric companies - all located in hurricane-prone southeastern states - work together during storms and share lessons afterward.

When Katrina hit, Mississippi Power management responded with a style designed for speed and flexibility, for getting things done amid confusion and chaos.

End Part 1.

Part 2 Elements of Success, continued next month.

## National Wildland Fire Management Awards

The National Wildland Fire Management Section of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) bestows six awards annually in the categories of Wildland Fire Public Education, Wildland Fire Prevention, Wildland Fire Risk Mitigation, Wildland Fire Planning, Wildland Fire Management, and Wildland Firefighter Safety. Local, state, or federal agency personnel; individuals associated with wildland fire management or public education; or anyone who has shown commitment to public education in forest ecology, wildfire prevention, mitigation, or related fields are eligible for the awards. The programs or activities for which the nominee was responsible must have taken place within two years of the award date.

Individuals or groups may be nominated, and the same individual or group may be nominated in multiple categories. Nominees need not be NFPA members, but nominations may only come from NFPA members. Nominations should be sent to the Wildland Section Executive Board through the section's executive secretary, Jim Smalley; (617) 984-7483; [jsmalley@nfpa.org](mailto:jsmalley@nfpa.org);

<http://www.nfps.org>

## DHS announces AFG Grants

For more information on USFA, please visit the website at:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov>

To view the latest round of award announcements, please visit:

<http://www.firegrantsupport.com/awards>

## EMAC After Action Report on the 2004 Hurricanes

EMAC works

From the National Emergency Management Association:

Lexington, KY - The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) today released its After Action Report on the 2004 hurricanes which caused significant damage to the gulf coast region last year. The findings of this report reveal that, not only does EMAC work, but it is the most effective and efficient tool for state-to-state mutual aid that exists.

The EMAC After Action Report is available on the NEMA website, <http://www.nemaweb.org>

## USDA Rural Development First Responder Initiative

The USDA program can be used for facilities and to even create new departments. The challenge is, many departments may not qualify.

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/cp.htm>

## BNC Homeland Security Grants Information Web Portal

Berkeley Nucleonics Corporation (BNC) has published a new Homeland Security Grants Information web portal. The resources available on BNC's Grants Information page include online grant search website listings, third-party grant writing services and training, as well as grant writing tools and guidance.

Visit webportal:

<http://www.berkeleynucleonics.com/dhs.html> Regards,

## Federal Government Funding Fact Sheet from NVFC

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is a non-profit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. Organized in 1976, the NVFC serves as the voice for the volunteer fire service. The NVFC is the volunteer fire service's representative in the national policy arena and on numerous national and international committees and organizations. Each state firefighter's association elects a representative to the NVFC. Currently, 49 of the states are members of the Council.

In addition to this short fact sheet of federal programs, the NVFC recommends you obtain the U.S. Fire Administration's Funding Alternatives for Fire and Emergency Services manual. To order a free copy, go to:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov>

We welcome you to browse our home page at:

<http://www.nvfc.org>

to learn more about the volunteer fire service and information regarding membership, training, legislation and meetings.

<http://www.nvfc.org/federalfunding.html>

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## Innovative Ideas

By Bob Day, NYS Fire Instructor, Wayne County

As a NYS Fire Instructor I get to see many Fire and Rescue Departments around the State with innovative ideas, here is one of those departments.

The Worcester, New York, Fire Department is located in the rolling hillsides of Otsego County. Running through the Worcester Fire District is Interstate 88, a major interstate that links Binghamton to Albany. The speed limit is 65 MPH, but as we all know, many travelers exceed that limit putting emergency personnel in danger on the highway.

With this in mind, the Worcester Fire Dept. purchased a Chevrolet Crew Cab chassis with a custom body. This vehicle allows Fire-Police personnel to quickly set up a safety zone by shutting down one lane of the highway, providing a safety buffer zone for emergency personnel at a motor vehicle accident, fire or other emergency.



The custom body is equipped with a storage area for traffic cones with quick access and a "cone drop step" so personnel can quickly place cones on the highway. On the back of the body is a large directional arrow lighted to provide a safety buffer on the scene. The bumper has a compartment which stores quick setup signs to warn motorists of an upcoming emergency scene.

With new regulations governing "temporary highway shutdown", the Worcester Fire Department has the jump to provide their personnel with a vehicle to quickly set up a highway safety zone at an emergency.



## Planning to Train

### - What is the Objective?

Training exercises are weakened by several common mistakes including inadequate planning, unreasonable objectives, narrow focus, and exercise drift. It's easy to tell when a drill hasn't been well planned. You and your crew arrive at the training grounds or drill location, and discover that the drill is not set to commence upon arrival. The officers get together to pick a scenario, and a half hour is wasted while they set up. Then when the drill commences, there's not enough for everyone to do. Members' attention wanders and eventually frustration ensues.

To be effective, training must follow a clear path from development, delivery, evaluation, and feedback. Participants should have a clear understanding of the purpose for which they have gathered. When planning your drill, consider the following five steps:

- Justification: why are we training?
- Learning objectives: what behavior is expected?
- Activity: what will we do to accomplish the objective?
- Evaluation: did we hit the target?
- Feedback: how can this be done better?

## DHS CEDAP Grants Phase II Begins Accepting Applications

The applications for communities under 100,000, colleges, university and other "small" entities are at the MIPT.org website (Responder Knowledge Base).

Applications will be accepted after 11/7/05.

<http://www.mipt.org> requires free registration.

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=111955](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=111955)

## Briefing Book for Phase II of the CEDAP Program Now Available

The Briefing Book for Phase II of the CEDAP program is now available for download. It contains the Executive Summary, Guidelines (including the list of products available in Phase II), and Frequently Asked Questions.

The link for the Briefing Book is at the bottom of the CEDAP page - use the "Search the RKB" button, select "Major Programs" and "Homeland Security Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP)" to go to the CEDAP page.

The Phase II Application period will begin at 0900EST November 7.

[http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content\\_id=112096](http://www.rkb.mipt.org/contentdetail.cfm?content_id=112096)

## Department of Interior Rural Fire Assistance Grants

The Department of the Interior receives an appropriated budget each year for a rural fire assistance (RFA) grant program. The maximum award is \$20,000. This funding will enhance the fire protection capabilities of rural and volunteer fire departments through training, equipment purchases, and fire prevention work on a cost-shared basis. The DOI assistance program targets rural and volunteer fire departments that routinely help fight fire on or near DOI lands. One of these four agencies administers those lands: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Park Service (NPS).

<http://www.nifc.gov/rfa/>

## NIOSH Improper Cylinder Requalification

The NIOSH National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) has issued a user notice regarding improper cylinder requalification. These cylinders may be used for self-contained breathing apparatus. More information is available on the NIOSH website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/usernotices/default.html>

## Chemical Agent Assessments Games

The assessments below are designed to help you test your knowledge of chemical agents and how to care for those exposed to them. This will give you an idea of how much you already know. These assessments may also be used to train others. Enjoy the learning!

<https://ccc.apgea.army.mil/courses/quizzes/quiz.htm>

## NVFC Update

*Legislation Introduced to Give Job Protection to Volunteer Fire and EMS Personnel*

<http://www.nvfc.org/news/2005-prot-leg.html>

*DOJ Finally Releases New PSOB Regulations*

<http://www.nvfc.org/news/2005-doj-psob-regs.html>

To view the proposed rules, go to:

<http://www.regulations.gov/fredpdfs/05-14659.pdf>

All fire and EMS personnel are welcome to provide written comments.

Visit the NVFC at:

<http://www.nvfc.org>

## World WMD Maps

*Federation of International Trade Associations:*

Good graphics showing WMD capabilities and activities of various countries of the world.

DEADLY MAPS

<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/static/npp/deadlymaps.cfm>

<http://fita.m.xtenit.com/ct.jsp?uz228681Biz1117325>

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## Diana's Library Hot Picks

Popular new library materials

Contact the Library at 607-535-7136 ext.605 to borrow, or email [drobinso@dos.state.ny.us](mailto:drobinso@dos.state.ny.us)

You can also subscribe to our full "New Arrivals" E-bulletin!

"The Ins and Outs of Technical Rescue" FETN EMS video, August 2005, approx. 60 min. Accompanied by curriculum guide. PowerPoint presentation on CD-rom.

"Explains some of the dangers involved in high-angle, confined-space, and swiftwater rescue situations and discusses the role of non-technician EMS personnel during these rescues. You will see simulations and actual rescues and learn how quickly even a situation that appears simple can turn deadly for the untrained rescue team."

Down & Dirty Engine & Pump Operations. University of Illinois, Fire Service Institute.

2 CDs: Disc 1 covers pump theory, components, pump panel, maintenance and drivers safety. Disc 2 includes hydrant types, hydrant connections, pump operations videos, lead outs, hydraulics, and "points to remember". This CD set is designed to augment an in-house training program. It is a supplement to and fully compatible with Illinois state certification, but it can also be used as a part of a stand-alone training program. Allows for both individually-paced and instructor-led training. In partnership with the Illinois Firefighters Association (IFA), IFSI developed the second in a series of essential skills training program CDs. Future programs will be distributed annually in DVD format and cover subjects including Rural Water, Ladder Truck Operations, and Fire Ground Support.

Thermal Imaging for the Fire Service by Jonathan Bastian. Fire Department Training Network, 2005. 111 pages

The Firemen's Association of the State of New York Museum of Firefighting by R. Dennis Randall, FASNY, 2005, 200 pages

Training for hazardous materials response: technician. Washington, DC: International Association of Fire Fighters. 2002. 3 DVDs and one CD-rom.

Description at:

<http://www.iaff.org/academy/content/hazmat/04FRO.html>

This specialized training uses a modular format where a fire department may analyze its current level of competency and choose course modules that will provide the skills needed by its hazardous materials team. Most of the 12 modules are stand-alone classes, but some are interdependent: where this is the case, it is found in the prerequisites section at the beginning of each module. (16-240 hours)

## UTSAR Responds to Building Explosion and Collapse

On October 6th, 2005 a gas explosion occurred in a residence on Strong Street, in the City of Schenectady. Fire Chief Robert Farstad requested the assistance of the New York Regional Response Team 1, Urban / Technical Search and Rescue team to search the collapsed building for a possible missing resident, and evaluate the structural stability of the exposure buildings.

The building, a 2 story wood frame single family residence was mainly in a pancake collapse with some A and V type void spaces created by large debris. A natural gas fire continued to rage in the basement until the utility company could secure the service at the gas main.

The team assisted in general debris removal, utilized high tech search cameras to search the void spaces, and evaluated the adjacent structures. The number 4 exposure building was found to have cracks in the building, requiring a transit to monitor for any movement. Although no movement was observed, city firefighters had reported that the wall had been moving during their checks for fire extension. Due to an anticipated extended investigation Schenectady Fire Department Assistant Chief Michael Dellarocco requested the team install a tie back system to prevent further movement of the wall.

Team members accomplished all requested tasks in only a few hours and had over 40 members respond. Units that responded included the teams 32' response trailer, which carries tools and supplies for lightweight building collapse as well as trench, rope, and confined space rescue. Other units include the 48' tools tractor-trailer and the 24' medical trailer.

Photos posted on this web site.

<http://homepage.mac.com/sdisick/PhotoAlbum22.html>

Submitted by: Steven Disick, Rescue Squad Officer, NYRRT-1

## Training for the Fire Service

### *Scene Support Operations, Firefighter -I, and Firefighter – II*

Firefighter training is critical to not only to the success of fire department operation but it is essential for firefighter safety and survival. Similar to when we started elementary school, rather than being placed into a classroom and expected to read, write and compute arithmetic problems our teachers provided us with the knowledge and skills necessary to accomplish these tasks. Being a new firefighter or emergency responder with no prior knowledge of firefighting can be very confusing and discouraging. Just as our elementary school teachers guided us, training and chief officers need to guide new recruits to get the right training for their role in the fire department. Guiding these new recruits to the appropriate training course is critical to their success and skill as a firefighter.

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Selected properly, the OFPC Scene Support Operations or Firefighter-I courses will develop the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities as well as enhance their motivation as a firefighter or emergency responder. Once the Firefighter-I graduate gains some field experience and aspires to lead a fire rescue crew, they can enhance their abilities by completing the Firefighter-II course. To guide the new recruits to the proper course the department training officer or Chief must understand what each course is designed to teach them and how it compares to past courses offered by OFPC.

### **Scene Support Operations (SSO)**

Scene Support Operations (SSO) is designed to train an individual to be a part of the emergency response team. The recruit who aspires to be an EMS member, Fire Police Officer, or to work in the cold zone of an emergency incident will gain some of the knowledge and skills needed to fulfill this position. Because the job description, these requirements can vary from department to department, with other job specific training being required. In addition most fire department training programs require the completion of job specific safety training as identified by Public Employees Safety & Health Act (PESH) administered by the NYS Department of Labor.

In the Scene Support Operations course, the student does not receive training to act as an interior structural firefighter or use Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. Students of this course will be instructed on how to assist another member don and doff the SCBA, change cylinders and to be aware of how they are refilled. Included in the course are topics of fire department organization, safety, fire behavior and development, Incident Management System (NY SMO I-100), personal protective equipment, communications and fire prevention, fire extinguishers, hose loads and rolls, water supply awareness, basic ropes and knots, and ladder carries and raises. Students are required to pass two written quizzes and over 25 skill evaluations and receiving a course completion certificate for this program signifies they have demonstrated knowledge, skills and abilities identified by the course objectives. Students do NOT receive a certificate for simply attending the course.

Scene Support Operations is 27 hours in length and can be scheduled in a format as the instructor and facility availability in each county will allow. This course is a new concept compared to past OFPC courses and has no existing course equivalent. The basic firefighter course covered some of the same topics but in more detail than the SSO course.

### **Firefighter I Course**

The Firefighter-I is a comprehensive approach to preparing a new recruit as an interior structural firefighter. With the exception of local rules, regulations and blood borne pathogens training the Firefighter-I graduate is prepared to be assigned as an interior structural firefighter under the supervision of a more experienced officer or firefighter. To accomplish the Firefighter-I course the student will not only learn firefighting knowledge, skills, and abilities but hazardous materials first responder-operations level training, weapons of mass destruction-awareness training, confined space awareness training, and the NY SMO ICS-100 course. Advanced SCBA and some survival skills have also been expanded to increase the new firefighter's ability to survive when things go wrong.

In addition training evolutions include structure and vehicle live fire skills as well as search, rescue, ventilation, rope and knot use, ground ladders, forcible entry, fire hose, water supply, and nozzle operation skills. The course provides 9 - all skills lessons with up to three instructors to complete over 100 specific firefighting skills. Instructors also take every opportunity to reinforce essential skills throughout the remaining lessons. To complete the course the student must pass two written exams, one administered as a mid-term and one as a final exam and successfully demonstrate required firefighting skills. The course is 78 hours in length and students are required to complete reading assignments throughout the course.

The following courses are equivalent to the Firefighter I course; Basic Firefighter (91) and Intermediate Firefighter (92) and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations (31) OR Essentials of Firemanship (02) and Fire Behavior and Arson Awareness (03) and Initial Fire Attack (10) and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations (31).

To prepare the students to succeed in the Firefighter-I course chiefs and training officers must assist the student with the following items:

Training Authorization Letter: A completed Training Authorization Letter is required to make sure the student is medically cleared to function as an interior firefighter, use SCBA and has passed a respirator fit test.

Local department instructors or officers should review the students' progress on a regular basis (weekly) and assist the student with skill practice such as donning personal protective equipment, ropes and knots, carrying and raising ground ladders, donning SCBA and other required skills.

Local department instructors or officers should provide the student information on their departments operational procedures, structure and organization.

Local department instructors or officers should provide them the support need during the course whether it is by answering questions or by simply asking how they are doing in the class.

### **Firefighter II Course**

The Firefighter-II is designed to provide advanced knowledge and skills to the firefighter-I who has had some practical experience. Interior structural firefighters who aspire to become a team leader under the general supervision of an officer will benefit from this program. The course covers information



about building construction and collapse, special rescue applications, fire flow formulas, advanced hydrant and fire hose operations, foam operations, detection and suppression systems, incident management systems skills, strategy and tactics, protecting evidence, communications, incident reporting and pre-incident surveys.

A live training fire scenario is utilized to give the opportunity to work as the crew chief and sharpen the skills learned in Firefighter-I. Where facilities permit, flammable liquid propane or natural gas live training fires are operated to give them experience in these high risk scenarios. To complete the course the student must pass two written exams, one administered as a mid-term and one as a final exam and successfully demonstrate required firefighting skills.

The Firefighter II has a student prerequisite of Firefighter I course or equivalent; is 27 hours in length and can be scheduled according to facility and instructor availability. The following courses are equivalent to the Firefighter II course; Advanced Firefighter course (93) or Fire Attack II (22).

Questions concerning any of the three courses may be directed to your county fire coordinator or the Office of Fire Prevention and Control, Fire Services Bureau Chief Thomas J. Wutz at:

twutz@dos.state.ny.us

Submitted by: Fire Protection Specialist Brian Benstead

## What is the NIMCAST?

NIMCAST stands for National Incident Management System Capability Assessment Support Tool. The NIMCAST is a web-based self-assessment tool designed to aid state, local, and tribal organizations and jurisdictions in determining their capabilities and compliance against the requirements established in the recently released National Incident Management System (NIMS)

[https://www.fema.gov/nimcast/  
PublicAccountNew.do](https://www.fema.gov/nimcast/PublicAccountNew.do)

## ECBC Expands Abilities of M256A1 Chemical Agent Detection Kit

### *Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC)*

Since its introduction into the military in 1978, the M256A1 Chemical Agent Detector Kit has proven to be a reliable and commonly accepted method for chemical warfare agent detection. This easy to use detection kit can identify agent classifications, and verify results from other methods of detection and reporting.

The M256A1 Kit is made up of a wet chemistry vapor-sampler and M8 Chemical Agent Detection Paper for liquids is used to test for the presence of hazardous concentration levels of CWAs in both the vapor and liquid form. Test results are used, along with test results received from other CWA detection equipment, to determine if personnel can remove their protective posture clothing and equipment.

To ensure the continued integrity of the M256A1 Kit, recent efforts have been made by the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center to maintain or improve this kit. ECBC conducted a study to improve the heater used in the blister portion of the vapor-sampler test. This modification changed the configuration of the heater allowing for more consistent and reliable test results in all environmental conditions.

In addition, the M256A1 Kit currently utilizes a sole-source specialized sampler paper for which there is no known replacement. When the current manufacturer decided to discontinue the paper, ECBC requested and assisted in re-starting the production line to produce a one-time limited-quantity run of acceptable paper to meet the government's immediate needs while continuing to work on a permanent replacement.

ECBC has since conducted testing on a few paper replacement candidates and will also complete qualification testing on the best possible replacement. These actions will help ensure that M256A1 Kits can continue to be produced and made available to the warfighter for as long as necessary with the reliability and accuracy required on the modern battlefield.

Another study currently under way is the development of the Low Volatility Hazard Kit, which is a product improvement to the M256A1 Kit. The LVH Kit uses a unique sampling method and analysis product for enhancing the detection capabilities of the currently fielded M256A1 Kit through use of a novel Sample Heater Assembly.

The addition of this clip-on SHA will allow low volatility liquids and granular-solids to now be detected by the vapor-sampler portion of the M256A1 Kit, which was initially developed to detect a variety of chemical warfare vapors or gases.

ECBC's efforts and improvements will ensure the historically proven M256A1 Chemical Agent Detector Kit will continue to play a vital role in protecting the warfighter against CWAs. With the potential for additional uses in secondary systems, support of homeland defense, and the capabilities already demonstrated in the past, the M256A1 Kit looks to continue service for many years to come.

## Top 20 Hazmat Violations

According to the United States Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the following is a list of the top 20 hazmat violations in order of frequency reported by the Department of Transportation:

### Failing to:

1. enter the proper description of the hazardous material (HM) [172.202(a)],
2. make or sign a "shippers certification" on the shipping paper [172.204(a)],
3. properly label the hazardous material container or package [172.400(a)],
4. offering a HM in an unauthorized package [173.22(a)(2)],
5. mark the overpack with the shipping name, etc., when required [173.25(a)(2)],
6. properly identify hazardous materials on a shipping paper that also contains non hazardous material entries [172.201(a)(1)],
7. enter the basic description of the HM in the proper sequence [172.202(b)],
8. mark a non bulk package of HM with the shipping name and/or Identification number [172.301(a)],
9. list the emergency response number for an individual who assumes responsibility for said function [172.604(b)],
10. properly mark the HM as required [172.304(a)],
11. have labels not clearly visible or the labels are obscured [172.406(f)],
12. enter the technical name in association with the proper shipping description [172.203(k)],
13. mark the package with orientation arrows as required [172.312(a)(2)],
14. secure package of HM against movement [177.834(a)],
15. enter the total quantity of HM on the shipping

- paper [172.202(a)(5)],
16. mark over-pack with statement that inner pkgs. comply with the HM regulations [173.25(a)(4)],
17. offer a HM without preparing a shipping paper (none) [172.200(a)],
18. include the words limited quantity or (LTD QTY) as required [172.203(b)],
19. improper package marking [172.301],
20. enter the packing group on the shipping paper [172.202(a)(4)].

## Man Takes Over Train with Bow and Arrow

October 11, Associated Press - Police: Man takes over train with bow and arrow.

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2005/10/11/police\\_man\\_takes\\_train\\_with\\_bow\\_and\\_arrow/](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2005/10/11/police_man_takes_train_with_bow_and_arrow/)

## Too Much Free Time...

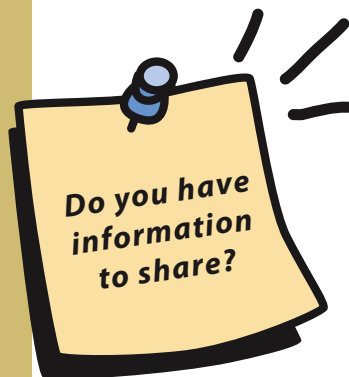
Here's a guy with a little ingenuity, a few plumbing parts....and way too much free time!

<http://www.chaffinchshoelace.com/view/2690/>

### Editor's Note:

You can't make this stuff up! Well, maybe we should title these "The World is Full of Dumb People!" Just pray the guy with the flame-thrower doesn't live down the street from you...!!

## Send Us an Article



Contributions to *SIREN* are always welcome. Timely articles about your fire department or county that are informative and of interest to New York's fire service are preferred. Small articles and bits of information are just as valuable as larger articles. Photos submissions are encouraged.

All submissions become the property of the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. Photo credits will be given where appropriate or requested. Contact us by e-mail at [fire@dos.state.ny.us](mailto:fire@dos.state.ny.us) subject: *SIREN*.

# SIREN

New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control • November 2005

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